



Environmental Management Department

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September 2005

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Welcome to the September 2005 EMD Update. This issue contains activities and accomplishments that occurred in the Department during the month of August 2005. Please feel free to forward comments, questions and suggestions to Linda Jimenez at (916) 875-8582 or JimenezL@SacCounty.net.

Highlights

- EMD responded to a high volume of media requests related to Food Safety
- EMD conducted more than 100 Food Facility inspections at the State Fair
- Sacramento Environmental Commission received update on West Nile Virus in Sacramento County

COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Roger Dickinson, 1st District
Illa Collin, 2nd District
Susan Peters, 3rd District
Roberta MacGlashan, 4th District
Don Nottoli, 5th District

Terry Schutten, County Executive

Penelope Clarke, Administrator
Countywide Services Agency

Mel Knight, Director
Environmental Management
Department

NOTEWORTHY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Board Approves Use of State Administrative Law Judge

EMD received approval from the Board of Supervisors to contract with the California State Office of Administrative Hearings to serve as the Hearing Officer on appeals related to solid waste regulation and enforcement activities as the Local Enforcement Agency for the California Integrated Waste Management Board.

California State Fair Vendors

Environmental Health Division (EHD) Consumer Protection staff performed more than 100 inspections of permitted food vendors at the California State Fair.

Technical Support to Board

Supervising Environmental Specialist (ES) Steve Kalvelage provided technical support at a Board of Supervisors meeting relative to conditioning a proposed subdivision to form a septic tank maintenance district to sample groundwater and maintain septic systems.

NEWS MEDIA INTERACTION

Food Safety and Personal Chefs

Supervising ES Kelly McCoy was contacted by a reporter from the *Sacramento Bee* regarding food safety and permit requirements for personal chefs.

Public Swimming Pools and Spas

Communications and Media Officer (CMO) June Livingston conducted an interview with *Capital Public Radio* concerning inspections and regulations pertaining to public swimming pools and spas.

Grocery Stores

Sacramento Bee Reporter Phillip Reese reviewed the files of seven grocery stores for an upcoming article.

Public Workshop

EMD placed a Notice in the *Sacramento Bee* inviting the public to a workshop to solicit feedback on a green, yellow, red placard notification system for restaurants and other retail food facilities.

Metro Regional Digest

CMO June Livingston conducted an interview with *Sacramento Bee* Reporter Phillip Reese inviting the public to attend a workshop on proposed changes to public notification of food facility inspection results. The resulting article was published in the August 17, 2005 edition of *Metro Regional Digest*.

Media Articles

Representatives from the following media outlets attended and presented feature stories on the Public Workshop held to solicit feedback on a green, yellow, red placard notification system: KCRA-NBC, KOVR-CBS, KQCA-WB, KMAX-UPN, KUVS-Univision, KXJZ-FM-NPR, and the *Sacramento Bee*.

Restaurateur Feedback

EMD Director Mel Knight conducted an interview for an article titled, "County gets feedback from restaurateurs on rating plan" which appeared on the front page of the *Sacramento Bee* Metro Section on August 23, 2005.

Proposed Placard Notification System

ES Zarha Ruiz conducted an interview in Spanish with Pablo Ibanez for Univision Channel 19 Television Station regarding the proposed green, yellow, red placard notification system.

Restaurant Closures

Supervising ES Alicia Enriquez and CMO June Livingston conducted interviews with UPN 21/KOVR 13 Reporter Naj Alikhan regarding events leading to the closure of the local Tony Roma's Restaurant. CMO June Livingston was also contacted by Mr. Alikhan regarding inspections and subsequent closure of the Rice Bowl Restaurant.

Food Protection Reports

CMO June Livingston was interviewed by Herman Munoz of *Food Protection Reports* (Washington, D.C.), concerning the proposed green, yellow, red placard notification system.

Nations Restaurant Review

CMO June Livingston conducted an interview with Al Little of *Nations Restaurant Review* about the proposed green, yellow, red placard system.

Public Notification of Inspection Results

EHD Chief Richard Sanchez conducted an interview for *National Public Radio* concerning the workshop on proposed changes to public notification of food facility inspection results.

California State Fair

ES Sonia Lee and CMO June Livingston provided interviews to *UPN 31* and *KOVR 13* Reporter Naj Alikhan after conducting food facility inspections at the California State Fair.

COMPLIANCE ASSISTANCE, WORKSHOPS AND OUTREACH

Food Safety Education (FSE)

Six FSE classes were conducted with 84 attendees representing 17 facilities. Three FSE classes were conducted in English, two in Cantonese, and one in Spanish.

Hazardous Material Plan (HMP) Workshops

Two HMP workshops were held with 9 businesses attending.

Proposed Food Safety Initiatives

EHD Chief Richard Sanchez and EMD Director Mel Knight participated in a number of meetings related to proposed food safety initiatives. A briefing was provided for the Board of Supervisors' Chiefs of Staff and meetings were held with a Food Subcommittee consisting of representatives from the food industry and the Sacramento Environmental Commission.

Summer Food Service Program

Senior Student Intern David Chan performed 48 inspections of foodservice operations for the Summer Food Service Program. A total of 131 inspections have been performed for the Program.

Envision Connect Software

IT Analysts Jim Guilliams and John Stender attended the monthly Envision User Group Meeting; Hazardous Material Business Plan handling in CUPA Programs was the main topic of the meeting. IT staff continues to test Envision Connect; one ES has received a tablet personal computer in lieu of a desktop computer as a test to evaluate the feasibility of a tablet-based system.

PROCESS IMPROVEMENT AND COLLABORATION

Representative from Tokyo

ES Sonia Lee was accompanied on food facility inspections in downtown Sacramento by Kazuhiko Tsurumi, Japanese Delegate and Assistant Director of the Department of Food Safety, Tokyo.

EMD Documents and Records

IT staff completed Site Assessment and Mitigation backfile scanning and developed document types for Solid Waste backfile scanning.

Water Programs

WPD Chief Cecilia Jensen met with Herb Niederberger, Division Chief, Sacramento County Department of Water Resources (DWR), to discuss ongoing EMD/DWR coordination of water programs.

Installation of Tidemark Software Program

Information Technology Staff completed installation of Tidemark software for select EMD users. Tidemark is a program used by the Building Inspection Division (BID) that allows EMD direct access to BID information.

Participation in Examination Process

CMO June Livingston participated as a subject matter expert in the County's examination process for the position of Business Citizen Assistance Representative I/II.

Solid Waste

Staff from EMD's Solid Waste Program participated in meetings to resolve the permit status of an agricultural waste facility that will soon be required to secure a State Solid Waste Facility Permit.

Sanitary Sewer Overflows

WPD Chief Cecilia Jensen and Supervising ES Steve Kalvelage met with representatives from the City of Sacramento and the Regional Water Quality Control Board to discuss health risks and public notification relative to combined system and sanitary sewer overflows.

Countywide Services Agency

EMD Director Mel Knight participated in Countywide Services Agency (CSA) meetings to develop future Agency strategies and to provide information for the Human Resources audit currently in progress.

Lead Sampling

At the request of the County Department of Transportation (DOT), ESs Barry Marcus, Rick Leibold and Jack Bellan of EMD's Site Assessment and Mitigation group performed follow-up lead sampling per DOT's agreement with Caltrans. The success of this pilot project for services has lead DOT to request similar services for another project.

Cross-Connection and Recycled Water

WPD Chief Cecilia Jensen and ES Maria Adney met with the new security and regulatory representative of the Sacramento County Water Agency to discuss coordination on cross-connection and recycled water programs.

Certified Unified Program Agency (CUPA)

Hazardous Materials Division (HMD) Chief Dennis Green met with CUPA Program Managers from San Diego, Los Angeles and San Bernardino Counties and representatives from the California Environmental Protection Agency, State Department of Toxic Substance Control, and Office of Emergency Services to develop a California Regulatory Performance Model. The major component of this effort is to establish risk-based protocol for CUPA programs.

Stormwater Compliance Workshop

WPD Chief Cecilia Jensen assisted Brown and Caldwell with the development of a Stormwater Compliance Workshop for their clients and the regulated community. The Workshop is scheduled for October 2005.

Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program (CLPPP)

Supervising ES Alicia Enriquez and ES Debbie Katz met with representatives from the State Department of Health Services CLPPP, the Community Resource Project, and the Planning and Conservation League to discuss homeowner and tenant notification of available Housing and Urban Development grant monies toward elimination of lead hazards in low-income housing. Emphasis will be placed on homes being occupied by children with elevated blood lead levels.

Well and Septic System Requirements

Supervising ESs Steve Kalvelage and Dana Booth met with City of Elk Grove Development Services staff to discuss coordination on well and septic system requirements for new development approval.

San Joaquin County District Attorney's Office

HMD Chief Dennis Green and Supervising ESs Elise Rothschild, Anthony Chu and Chris Pace met with David Irey from the San Joaquin County District Attorney's Office to discuss EMD's role in recent statewide CUPA enforcement cases. EMD has been the primary provider of investigative materials for two statewide enforcement cases.

Sacramento Environmental Commission

EMD provided staff support to the Sacramento Environmental Commission; August meeting topics included an Update on West Nile Virus and Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District Initiatives.

STAFF PRESENTATIONS

Certified Unified Program Agency (CUPA)

Supervising ES Elise Rothschild and ES Marie Woodin participated in the Statewide CUPA Enforcement Technical Advisory Group meeting held in Sacramento. Marie presented information highlighting the use of web-based resources in the successful settlement of an enforcement case. Elise briefed the participants on the highly favorable outcome of an EMD hearing before the State Administrative Law Judge.

Sacramento Groundwater Authority

Supervising ESs Dana Booth and Steve Kalvelage presented information on EMD's Water Programs at the August Board meeting of the Sacramento Groundwater Authority. Information provided focused specifically on groundwater use, protection and restoration.

DHHS Public Health Unit

CMO June Livingston conducted in-service training on EMD programs and services for members of the Public Health Unit, County Department of Health and Human Services.

Basic Well Training

Supervising ES Dana Booth and ES Susan Williams conducted a basic well training session for WPD staff and Registered Environmental Health Specialist (REHS) trainees in EHDs Consumer Protection Group.

TRAININGCounty Safety Office

Eighty EMD staff members attended training on "Customer Conflict and the Field Representative" presented by the County Safety Office. The training was specifically tailored to EMD regulatory field activities.

HazWoper Training

ES Derek Jacks, and Environmental Compliance Technicians (ECT) Christina Pease and Jonathan Pollack completed the 24-Hour HazWoper Training Course.

Document Imaging System

IT Analyst Jim Guilliams conducted refresher training of eRMA (Document Imaging System) for EMD's Regulatory Compliance staff.

Certified Pools Operator Training

EMD's REHS trainees participated in a two-day training course for Certified Pool Operators.

REHS Preparation

ESs Eric Haupt, Jason Smalley and Felicia Williams participated in a three-day REHS Preparation Training Course.

PERSONNELNew Employees

Erin Kennedy was hired as a Senior Office Specialist in the IT/Imaging Group.
Christine Abad was hired as an ES III in the HMD.

Transition

After four years of service to Sacramento County, EHD Chief Richard Sanchez returned to Southern California to serve in a similar capacity for Orange County.

Retirement

Augustine Nnoli retired from the EHD after 31+ years of County service.

AUGUST 2005 BY THE NUMBERS

		August 2005	Year To Date
	<u>Inspections</u>		
1.	Food Facilities	600	7,197
2.	Dairy (including dairy farms and soft serve)	81	676
3.	Farm Labor Camps	8	58
4.	Public Swimming Pools/Spas	697	2,242
5.	Solid Waste Facilities (landfills/transfer stations)	15	124
6.	Liquid Waste	88	299
7.	Medical Waste	7	61
8.	Small Water Systems	1	51
9.	Wells	184	940
10.	Underground Storage Tank (UST) Installations, Upgrade/Repair, and Removal	21	239
11.	Businesses/Facilities Generating Hazardous Waste	127	807
12.	Businesses/Facilities Storing Hazardous Materials	187	1,123
13.	Underground Storage Tank Facilities	44	291
14.	Storm Water	144	1,009
15.	Waste Tire	65	109
16.	Tobacco Retailer	<u>28</u>	<u>277</u>
	Total	2,297	15,503
	<u>Investigations</u>		
1.	Consumer Complaints	85	532
2.	Food Borne Illness	24	129
3.	Incident Response	40	295
4.	Storm Water	15	138
5.	Waste Tire	<u>0</u>	<u>67</u>
	Total	164	1,161
	<u>Plan and Permit Reviews</u>		
1.	Hazardous Materials Business Plans	469	2,804
2.	Monitoring Wells	60	462
3.	Food Facilities	179	1,163
4.	Public Swimming Pools/Spas	29	275
5.	Underground Storage Tanks - Includes Removals, Installations, Upgrades and Repairs	29	277
6.	Land Use	<u>23</u>	<u>137</u>
	Total	789	5,118
	<u>Information Management</u>		
1.	Documents Imaged	16,117	121,867
2.	Public Record Reviews	<u>37</u>	<u>213</u>
	Total	16,154	122,080